

REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action was issued (March 23, 2011), claims 1-26 were pending. In this response, claims 1, 13 and 19 have been amended and claims 4, 7, 10, 15, 17, 18, 22, and 24 have been canceled, without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections of these claims, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in unamended or other forms in a continuation or other application. New claims 27 and 28 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 19-21, 23 and 25-28 are currently pending.

The status of the application at the time the present Office Action was issued is as follows:

- (A) Claims 13-18 stand objected to because of informalities;
- (B) Claims 1-4, 7, 13-15, 17, 19-22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United Kingdom Patent No. 2329016 to Breda et al. ("Breda");
- (C) Claims 5-6, 16, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breda in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,333,004 to Forge et al. ("Forge");
- (D) Claims 8-9, 11, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,809,648 to Fleming ("Fleming");
- (E) Claims 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,551 to Severson et al. ("Severson");

(F) Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,612 to Palmer ("Palmer"); and

(G) Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breda in view of Fleming, and further in view of Forgue.

As a preliminary matter, the undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on August 3, 2011. During the August 3, 2011 telephone interview, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney discussed a proposed amendment to claim 10, which the Examiner indicated would necessitate withdrawing the currently pending rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment would place claim 1 in condition for allowance, pending an updated search.

Claim 1 has been amended in the manner discussed with the Examiner during the August 3, 2011 telephone interview. Independent claims 13 and 19 have been amended in a similar manner.

The foregoing and following remarks summarize and expand upon the points discussed during the August 3, 2011 telephone interview, and reflect the foregoing agreement between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this paper constitute applicants' interview summary. If the Examiner identifies any deficiencies in this regard, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

As noted above, independent claims 1, 13 and 19 have been amended in the manner indicated by the Examiner to patentably distinguish over the applied references. Dependent claims 4, 7, 10, 15, 17, 18, 22 and 24 have been canceled and accordingly, the outstanding rejections of these claims are now moot. Independent claim 13 has been further amended to respond to the Examiner's objections to this claim. New

claims 27 and 28 have been added to the application and depend from claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner identifies any informalities or other matters that may be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 030048095US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: Aug. 12, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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